

REFERENCE TITLE: persons crossing the desert; assistance

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

SCR 1014

Introduced by

Senators Brotherton, Aguirre, Miranda, Mitchell, Rios; Representatives Bradley, Downing, Garcia M, Lujan, Prezelski, Sinema, Tom: Senators Aboud, Arzberger, Cannell, Cheuvront, Garcia, Hale, Soltero; Representatives Aguirre A, Alvarez, Brown, Burton Cahill, Cajero Bedford, Gallardo, Kirkpatrick, Lopes, Lopez L, McCune Davis, Meza, Miranda B, Rios P

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THAT HUMANITARIAN AID IS NEVER A CRIME.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, hundreds of immigrants die each year after crossing into the
2 United States from Mexico; and

3 Whereas, the largest number of immigrants die while crossing the
4 Arizona desert; and

5 Whereas, more than two hundred sixty immigrants have died in the last
6 year as a result of exposure to the harsh conditions and extreme temperatures
7 typical of the Arizona desert during the summer months; and

8 Whereas, No More Deaths is a faith-based non-profit group that attempts
9 to prevent the deaths of immigrants crossing the southern Arizona desert by
10 providing humanitarian aid in the form of medical care, food and water; and

11 Whereas, on July 9, 2005, two volunteers from the group No More Deaths
12 encountered three immigrants in the Arizona desert who were reported to have
13 been suffering from extreme hunger and thirst, persistent vomiting and
14 severe, crippling blisters; and

15 Whereas, the volunteers attempted to transport the immigrants to a
16 church in Tucson for the purpose of receiving emergency medical assistance
17 from trained professionals; and

18 Whereas, in the process of transporting the immigrants, the two
19 volunteers were stopped by the United States Border Patrol, arrested and
20 eventually charged with two felony offenses under federal law; and

21 Whereas, the federal felony offenses carry a maximum penalty of fifteen
22 years imprisonment.

23 Therefore

24 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
25 Representatives concurring:

26 1. That the Members of the Legislature affirm that providing
27 humanitarian aid is never a crime.

28 2. That the Members of the Legislature urge the United States Attorney
29 for the District of Arizona to terminate the prosecution of the two
30 volunteers who attempted to provide humanitarian aid on July 9, 2005.

31 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
32 of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the President of
33 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
34 Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona and the
35 United States Attorney for the District of Arizona.